ted for import in April, 1988 comes to about US Dollars 103.78 per tonne.

Payment of market price to the farmers

447. SHRI V NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India which was procuring large quantity of wheat from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the last few years could not procure wheat though production was substantial because of the price differential in the market; and

(b) what steps the Government has taken to pay the market price to the farmers so that large quantity of wheat can be procured by Food Corporation of India from the farmers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) During the 1988-89 marketing season, the Food Corporation of India alone has procured 28.31 lakh tonnes of wheat in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as against 26.88 lakh tonnes procured during 1987-88. In addition to this, wheat has also been procured for the Central Pool by other agencies.

(b) Wheat is procured under Government's price support operations. The support price fixed by the Government for the 1988-89 rabi marketing season is Rs. 173.00 per quintal. This price was fixed after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and the views of the Government and includes a reasonable return to the farmers.

Ban on use of harmful pesticides

448. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to press report which appeared in "Hindustan Times" of the 15th June, 1988 where in it has been stated that U.K., U.S.A and other advanced countries had banned use of the pesticides like Endrine BH/Luidane, DDT, Dieldrin and heptachlor while India is still using most of these pesticides;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) to what extent these pesticides are harmful; and

(d) whether Government proposes to ban the use of such pesticides the country which are highly poisonous and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India, in August, 1984, constituted an Expert Committee to examine the utility in India of pesticides banned or phased out or restricted in use in developed countries and give suggestions for safer substitutes. The Committee has submitted its report on DDT, BHC, aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and EDB. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee on BHC and has decided to restrict the use of BHC at its present level. The reports on DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and EDB are under examination. The use of endrine has already been phased out in India.